

Occupational Compensation Survey

Technical Note

The Occupational Compensation Survey program provides information on the average hourly and weekly earnings for selected occupations for approximately 100 metropolitan areas and 70 nonmetropolitan counties. In addition, the survey provides selected employee benefits data for some areas. The survey covers establishments with 50 workers or more in goods producing industries (mining, construction, and manufacturing); service producing industries (transportation, communications, electric, gas, and sanitary services; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services), including health services; and State and local governments. Private households, agriculture, the Federal Government, and the self-employed are excluded from the survey. Surveys are conducted throughout the year on a sample basis. The sample for each area is selected based on industry and size. Data collected from the sample of establishments are appropriately weighted to represent all establishments within the survey.

The occupations covered by the survey are common to a variety of public and private industries. Occupations are classified using a uniform set of job descriptions, designed to take into account inter-establishment variation in duties within the same job.

The survey provides data on full-time workers by straight-time earnings for selected professional, administrative, technical, protective service, clerical, maintenance, toolroom, material movement, and custodial jobs. Pay increases under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments are included in these data, but premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and shift differentials, nonproduction bonuses, and profit-sharing payments are

not. Weekly hours refer to the standard workweek for which employees receive regular straight-time salaries.

For some occupations, pay data may not be available at the industry or all-industry (overall) level because either the data do not provide statistically reliable results, or the data may disclose individual establishment data. All-industry estimates combine data from each industry, even though pay data may not appear separately for each industry division.

Published survey bulletins provide greater industry detail, as well as pay distributions, occupational descriptions, and an explanation of the survey methods. For more information on bulletins, call the phone number shown below.

All agencies that collect and publish data for metropolitan areas use the most recent definitions of metropolitan areas established by the Office of Management and Budget. A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is defined in terms of entire counties, except in the six New England States where they are defined in terms of cities and towns. If an area has a population greater than 1 million and meets certain other requirements specified in the Metropolitan Area standards published in the *Federal Register*, it is termed a Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA).

Additional Information

For further information, contact the Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6220. E-mail: ocltinfo@bls.gov World Wide Web access: <http://stats.bls.gov>

Table C-1. Average weekly pay in all industries for white-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996¹

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Dallas-Fort Worth CMSA	Hartford MSA	Orlando MSA	St. Louis MSA	San Francisco CMSA
	March	March	April	March	March
Professional					
Accountants	\$ 830	\$ 828	\$ 692	-	\$ 887
1	514	-	454	\$ 504	637
2	628	628	601	593	700
3	831	804	763	760	907
4	1,053	1,050	1,009	1,021	1,153
5	1,362	1,326	-	-	1,389
6	1,737	-	-	-	1,807
Accountants, Public	705	-	-	664	-
1	595	-	-	-	-
2	641	-	-	608	-
3	719	-	-	666	-
4	965	-	-	868	-
Attorneys	1,292	1,467	938	1,574	1,695
1	682	-	-	648	-
2	865	997	-	860	1,245
3	1,183	1,298	-	1,254	1,523
4	1,639	1,681	-	-	1,802
5	2,039	2,026	-	2,066	2,094
6	-	-	-	-	2,237
Engineers	1,190	1,120	1,122	-	1,337
1	705	658	647	-	751
2	792	790	787	738	842
3	939	958	963	859	1,056
4	1,137	1,219	1,220	-	1,257
5	1,411	1,425	1,455	-	1,532
6	1,735	1,724	1,805	-	1,814
7	1,985	-	-	-	2,153
8	-	-	-	-	2,426
Scientists	832	1,002	771	-	1,291
1	511	-	-	-	-
2	647	740	-	779	831
3	762	-	-	953	1,021
4	1,022	1,176	-	1,127	1,268
5	1,402	1,355	-	1,340	1,543
6	-	-	-	1,556	1,837
7	-	-	-	-	2,107
Administrative					
Budget Analysts	787	878	800	-	985
3	813	-	747	760	924
Buyers/Contracting Specialists	768	869	652	665	893
1	529	-	-	477	610
2	652	675	637	619	749
3	864	920	-	803	972
4	1,031	1,140	-	990	1,184

See footnotes at end of table 2.

Table C-1. Average weekly pay in all industries for white-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996¹—Continued

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Dallas-Fort Worth CMSA	Hartford MSA	Orlando MSA	St. Louis MSA	San Francisco CMSA
	March	March	April	March	March
Computer Programmers	\$ 713	-	\$ 761	\$ 630	\$ 908
1.....	526	-	-	-	-
2.....	637	\$ 628	551	601	723
3.....	752	-	696	720	862
4.....	1,074	-	958	-	-
Computer Systems Analysts	992	965	900	923	1,158
1.....	747	-	667	765	885
2.....	909	-	828	-	1,071
3.....	1,086	-	1,034	1,109	1,276
4.....	1,292	-	-	-	1,451
5.....	1,579	-	-	-	-
Computer Systems Analyst					
Supervisors/Managers	1,353	1,320	1,234	1,264	1,521
1.....	1,086	-	-	1,158	1,312
2.....	1,350	-	-	1,426	1,571
3.....	1,577	-	-	-	-
Personnel Specialists	816	907	708	-	1,046
1.....	527	-	-	491	687
2.....	612	643	541	581	687
3.....	783	-	720	731	910
4.....	983	1,094	953	1,026	1,140
5.....	1,262	1,255	-	-	1,467
Personnel Supervisors/Managers	1,447	1,473	-	1,537	1,750
1.....	1,051	-	-	-	1,347
2.....	-	-	1,387	1,604	-
3.....	-	-	1,683	1,928	-
Tax Collectors	466	-	-	-	-
1.....	-	648	-	-	532
2.....	437	754	-	-	664
3.....	512	878	-	-	795
Technical					
Computer Operators	521	573	445	499	639
1.....	370	-	-	339	-
2.....	459	483	402	418	598
3.....	568	590	495	581	655
4.....	-	680	-	-	695
Drafters	558	-	539	-	-
1.....	430	-	-	381	-
2.....	466	-	498	500	573
3.....	595	601	605	590	-
4.....	750	807	-	-	826
Engineering Technicians	695	761	604	-	808
2.....	515	-	475	-	567
3.....	590	673	547	562	680
4.....	691	728	-	764	818
5.....	-	868	-	894	936
6.....	-	-	-	-	1,152
Engineering Technicians, Civil	500	-	513	628	931
1.....	339	-	-	-	593
2.....	408	-	-	442	775
3.....	508	-	-	579	878
4.....	557	-	-	741	974
5.....	630	-	-	-	-
6.....	-	-	-	-	1,218

See footnotes at end of table 2.

Table C-1. Average weekly pay in all industries for white-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996¹—Continued

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Dallas-Fort Worth CMSA	Hartford MSA	Orlando MSA	St. Louis MSA	San Francisco CMSA
	March	March	April	March	March
Protective Service					
Corrections Officers	\$417	\$577	\$518	\$477	\$823
Firefighters	616	-	-	-	-
Police Officers	647	767	-	610	964
1	647	767	-	610	955
2	-	-	662	-	1,074
Clerical					
Clerks, Accounting	419	465	382	388	520
1	396	-	308	392	-
2	383	397	352	355	454
3	442	479	428	428	533
4	533	599	472	527	622
Clerks, General	381	435	329	375	532
1	302	-	-	238	-
2	319	372	-	333	396
3	401	449	331	388	511
4	402	507	351	466	594
Order Clerks	-	476	-	327	-
1	338	-	-	319	-
2	-	477	-	-	-
Key Entry Operators	327	401	391	347	435
1	305	363	317	323	-
2	377	455	-	374	494
Personnel Assistants	446	554	414	440	605
1	324	-	-	323	-
2	401	-	383	385	-
3	477	547	440	495	638
4	586	-	-	-	700
Secretaries	519	584	453	503	674
1	432	451	364	377	-
2	468	514	446	451	600
3	529	581	519	532	668
4	632	671	613	647	748
5	779	793	-	805	840
Switchboard Operator-Receptionists	337	385	340	322	438
Word Processors	484	508	398	-	602
1	-	386	383	-	-
2	486	550	421	413	589
3	-	-	-	525	711

See footnotes at end of table 2.

Table C-2. Average hourly pay in all industries for blue-collar occupations, in selected areas, 1996¹

Occupation ² and level	Area and reference month				
	Dallas-Fort Worth CMSA	Hartford MSA	Orlando MSA	St. Louis MSA	San Francisco CMSA
	March	March	April	March	March
Maintenance and Toolroom					
General Maintenance Workers	\$ 10.62	\$ 12.33	\$ 8.72	\$ 11.89	\$ 12.85
1	8.74	11.81	8.40	9.86	10.69
2	12.65	13.90	11.55	13.91	15.58
Maintenance Electricians	15.49	18.69	14.74	20.51	22.43
Maintenance Electronics					
Technicians	18.20	20.49	-	18.03	19.93
1	11.96	-	11.47	-	-
2	18.62	19.69	14.97	18.02	19.83
3	19.92	-	-	19.99	21.71
Maintenance Machinists	-	17.12	-	19.69	19.37
Maintenance Mechanics, Machinery	14.06	18.91	-	17.38	20.78
Maintenance Mechanics, Motor Vehicle	15.66	16.93	13.40	17.32	20.55
Maintenance Pipefitters	-	16.93	-	20.52	-
Skilled Multi-Craft Maintenance Workers	15.51	17.61	-	18.67	23.10
Tool and Die Makers	17.27	17.99	-	21.07	-
Material Movement and Custodial					
Guards	7.04	-	8.35	-	8.10
1	6.79	-	7.61	-	7.81
2	14.01	-	-	13.22	12.92
Janitors	-	-	7.45	6.72	-
Material Movement and Storage Workers					
1	9.58	11.15	9.36	11.80	12.13
2	7.65	-	7.65	-	7.41
Forklift Operators	9.83	11.54	9.81	11.99	13.05
Shipping/Receiving Clerks	9.95	10.74	10.10	13.74	-
3	10.02	11.43	8.94	11.04	11.80
Tractor Trailers	14.68	-	-	12.80	14.13
Truckdrivers	11.68	15.23	10.76	15.10	16.40
Light Truck	7.53	-	6.64	8.21	-
Medium Truck	12.92	15.89	11.94	-	-
Heavy Truck	9.05	-	-	12.72	-
Tractor Trailer	-	16.27	12.20	17.31	-

¹These areas were selected because they are the first in a series of surveys which were collected using the updated 1995 Manual of Job Descriptions. These new survey publications present data for overall as well as individual occupational levels. Data collection for these five surveys occurred between November 1995 and July 1996. The average payroll month for Dallas-Ft. Worth TX, Hartford CT, St. Louis MO IL, and San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CA was March 1996; Orlando FL had an average payroll month of April 1996.

²The Bureau's Occupational Compensation Survey covers 42 different occupations, many of which are distinguished with multiple levels. See Appendix B in any of the published survey bulletins for the job descriptions used by field economists in classifying workers. Those occupations and levels which do not appear on these tables failed the Bureau's publishability criteria which ensure both respondent confidentiality and statistical accuracy.